

## **CUMBERLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**The October meeting of the Cumberland Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman George Gettinger at 6:30 p.m. on October 8 at the Arnold Mills Community House, Hillside Rd. Present were Chairman Gettinger, Julie Guerin, Frank Geary, Briscoe Lang, John Monaghan, Greg Myers, Michael Scalzi and Lucille Martin.**

**Minutes of the September meeting were approved.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Fish Ladders: Congratulations to Mr. on the successful groundbreaking ceremony of the Blackstone River Fish Ladder project held at Slater Mill in Pawtucket on Sun., Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm. Depending on the weather, actual construction may begin before the winter on the first two dams.**

**2) Monastery Fields: Mr. Geary reported that he coordinated having the fields mowed with Mr. Marsalkowski and Mr. Frank Stowic of the Highway Department. The one-time fee is \$400 to return the fields back to their original condition where they can be used to mow hay. Mr. Monaghan motioned, Mr. Geary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously to pay the fee from the Conservation Commission budget. In the future, the form of payment for mowing will be the hay itself. Mr. Geary suggested meeting in the future with all parties that maintain the haying fields on town open space**

property to develop plans and contracts for future maintenance of the fields. Habitat for grassland nesting birds should be identified and protected. Mr. Geary will seek advice from the Audubon Society on this topic. Mr. Lang recommended that a subcommittee take charge of this project and volunteered to serve on it along with Mr. Geary and Mr. Gettinger. The Conservation Commission will take on an active role in the implementation of the management plans for the monastery.

3) Trails: Mr. Monaghan reported on the \$48,000 grant that has already been awarded to the town for trail improvements and extensions. The Warner Trail ends in Diamond Hill Park, and the plan is to extend it through Cumberland to the Blackstone River. A subcommittee will continue to work with the Planning Dept. on details required and additional monies needed to complete the extension. A walk of the existing Warner Trail through Diamond Hill Park will be scheduled in the next few weeks. Mr. Lang will research available GIS maps.

4) Franklin Farm: The end of season harvest cookout was held on Oct. 4. A grand total of 12,396 lb. of vegetables were raised this year. The RFP for the work on the barn was being sent the week of Oct. 12.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Mr. Geary met with a staff member from Senator Sheldon White's office regarding the installation of chutes to allow canoe passage over the Blackstone River dams. Senator White wants to sponsor the

**project and obtain federal stimulus funds toward it.**

**2) Mr. Scalzi reported that he purchased tools and protective gear for practical and safety reasons with the grant money received for cemetery maintenance. He will pursue federal grant money that may become available for maintenance of historic cemeteries.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**1) Chairman Gettinger read correspondence received over the past month.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm at the Arnold Mills Community House.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Julie M. Guerin, Secretary**